

House File 480 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 480

BY WHEELER, SHEETS, WATTS, R.
TAYLOR, SALMON, GASSMAN,
and BAXTER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to science education in school districts.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 279.54 Science education.

1. The board of directors of each school district shall authorize and assist teachers, principals, and other school administrators to create and foster an environment within the school district's elementary and secondary schools that promotes critical thinking skills, logical analysis, and open and objective discussion of scientific theories. If a teacher provides instruction relating to evolution, the origins of life, global warming, or human cloning, the teacher shall include opposing points of view or beliefs relating to the instruction.

2. A teacher employed by the school district shall use textbooks adopted by the school district, but may supplement the information in those textbooks with other instructional materials, including other textbooks, as permitted by the board of directors of the school district, to help students understand, analyze, critique, and review scientific theories in an objective manner.

19 3. This section shall not be construed to promote any
20 religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a
21 particular set of religious beliefs, or promote discrimination
22 for or against religion or nonreligion.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill creates new Code section 279.54 directing the
27 board of directors of each school district to authorize and
28 assist the district's teachers and administrators to create
29 and foster an environment within the district's elementary
30 and secondary schools that promotes critical thinking
31 skills, logical analysis, and open and objective discussion
32 of scientific theories. If a teacher provides instruction
33 relating to evolution, the origins of life, global warming, or
34 human cloning, the teacher must include opposing points of view
35 or beliefs relating to the instruction.

1 A teacher shall use textbooks adopted by the school
2 district, but may supplement the information in those textbooks
3 with other instructional materials, as permitted by the board
4 of directors of the school district.

5 The bill provides that new Code section 279.54 shall not
6 be construed to promote any religious doctrine, promote
7 discrimination for or against a particular set of religious
8 beliefs, or promote discrimination for or against religion or
9 nonreligion.